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Subject: RE: CDC - Lessons learned SARS [Gibson role
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Dr. Lederberg

You're correct in that I'm Dr. Winkenwerder principle advisor on SARS. As such, I try to keep him apprized of the current status of the disease and suggest to him possible policy options. As part of this duty, I can provide my opinion on what TF can realistically do to help DoD.

While the TF is not positioned to write or rewrite DoD doctrine with respect to SARS (or response to disease outbreaks in general), there are specific recommendations that TF can present that will 1) help guide the development of quarantine policy and doctrine and 2) help to engage other non-health DoD agencies in the process. In particular, recommendations that focus on establishing lines of communication between the line/warfighters and the medics is important as well as the roles of security forces, food services, and installation support in executing quarantine if and when it is deemed necessary. The interface between local installations, CDC and higher DoD headquarters is a critical issue that needs particular attention. Given the newness of SARS, we can anticipate rough spots when our first DoD cases are seen.

I propose we use, during the open discussion, the "Issues for Consideration" from the SARS lessons learned document to start discussion on where DoD needs to focus. From there I believe the TF can formulate a series of recommendations that will be of tremendous benefit to DoD in "filling the holes".

----- We are taking action in to push CDC's guidelines down from the very top level to those who will actually be responsible for dealing with cases of SARS in DoD and with communicating with local public health authorities. A draft DoD plan is under development and will be presented to Dr. Winkenwerder within the week. This plan calls for dual reporting of cases and interface with local public health/CDC and Service/DOD leaders.

The Services for the most part have already begun efforts to promulgate their own policies.

An overarching plan for public health emergencies and disease outbreaks that will tie this all together is underway. Hopefully, these efforts will culminate in DoD Instructions with metrics to measure compliance.

Roger